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Forty-eighth session

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

Addendum*

VIII. REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995: CONFERENCE SERVICES

A. Introduction and overview

1. At its 327th meeting, on 12 June 1991, the Committee on Conferences decided to review the relevant programme narrative of the proposed programme budgets for conference and library services, and to provide its views thereon to the General Assembly.

2. At its 360th and 361st meetings, on 2 and 3 November 1993, the Committee reviewed section 25E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, Conference services (A/48/6 (sect. 25E)).

B. Discussion

3. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding various aspects of the proposed programme budget, including the considerable delay in the issuance of the budget fascicle until the end of October.

4. In view of the significant increase in the workload of the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies, particularly those activities related to peace-keeping operations, a number of delegations expressed deep concern about the inadequacy of resources allocated to the Office of Conference Services to

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* The present document contains an addendum to the report of the Committee on Conferences. The complete report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/48/32/Rev.2).

deal with the additional demands placed on it, in particular in the Interpretation and Translation Divisions. That situation had resulted during the past two years in considerable delays in the issuance, in all official languages, of the documentation submitted to intergovernmental bodies. It had also resulted in a sharp increase in the number of meetings held without interpretation. The situation might deteriorate further in the coming biennium, in view of the increase in the number of world conferences and the expected high level of Security Council activities in peace-keeping operations. In that context, some delegations had expressed the wish that, while reaffirming the principle that the Office of Conference Services should continue to be financed through the regular budget, some posts financed through the peace-keeping support account be allocated to the Office, in particular in the Translation Division.

5. Other delegations expressed deep reservations about that proposal on the grounds that conference services, since they were fundamental support services for all bodies of the Organization, should be funded entirely through the regular budget.

6. Clarification was sought and received on the continued application of economy measures at Geneva and Vienna, which was a cause for concern, particularly with regard to Geneva where the measures affected the provision of conference services to bodies serviced by the Centre for Human Rights.

7. In response to a query regarding progress towards the establishment of unified conference services at Vienna to be administered by the United Nations, the representative of the Secretariat stated that negotiations with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) were proceeding following a meeting between the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Director-General of UNIDO.

C. Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee, sincerely regretting that the issuance of the budget fascicle on conference services had been delayed until the end of October, recalled its responsibility to advise the General Assembly on the current and future requirements of the Organization for conference services, facilities and documentation, and that the provision to the United Nations of appropriate, timely, high-quality conference services, in the most cost-effective manner possible, with due respect for the equal treatment of all official languages, was an essential element in the efficient functioning of the Organization.

9. In order to achieve the required level of services, enhanced coordination and technological innovation were indispensable, but equally essential was the provision of adequate human and material resources. In that connection, the Committee took note of the proposal to maintain the post of Assistant Secretary-General and to reclassify certain posts.

10. In view of the limited resources available for conference servicing and in order to improve the provision of conference services, the conversion of temporary posts to established posts should be considered whenever such a conversion was deemed to be more cost-effective.

11. In view of the foregoing, the Committee also recommended that the six temporary posts requested for the purpose of eliminating the backlog in the United Nations Treaty Series should be converted to established posts.

12. The Committee expressed deep concern at the continued application of economy measures introduced by the Secretary-General on 26 August 1993 in the conference-servicing area, particularly at Geneva, where the measures affected the provision of conference services to bodies serviced by the Centre for Human Rights and had adverse effects on the functioning of the Centre. While appreciating any efforts aimed at reducing costs, the Committee recommended that those measures should be lifted with immediate effect.

13. The Committee requested the Secretariat to study the possibility of transferring to the Office of Conference Services the staff specialized in the drafting of press releases, so that they could prepare summary records as well, and to submit the results of that study to the Committee and to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

14. The Committee also took note of the fact that negotiations with UNIDO were proceeding following a meeting between the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Director-General of UNIDO, and reiterated its request that negotiations be concluded as quickly as possible. The Committee emphasized that, in pursuing further negotiations with UNIDO, the Secretariat should proceed from the premise that the primary concern of Member States was to ensure that their combined financial burden for providing conference services to the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNIDO should in the long run benefit from the unification agreement.

15. The Committee decided that in future its review of the proposed programme budget for conference services should be expanded to include conference services at Nairobi and at the regional commissions.

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Addendum*

* The present document contains an addendum to the report of the Committee on Conferences. The complete report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/48/32/Rev.2).

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1. Changes to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 contained in section A of annex I (changes have been underlined)

	Organ	Dates (1994)	Location	Member-ship	Servicing a/		Periodicity
5.	States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, fifteenth meeting [General Assembly resolution 2106 (XX)]	12 January	New York	137 G	I (ACEFRS)	T SR	One session every two years
17.	UNICEF - Executive Board, organizational session [Executive Board decision 1990/1]	15-16 February	New York	41 G	I (ACEFRS)	T SR	
20.	Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, seventh session [General Assembly resolution 34/180]	7 February	New York	126 G	I (ACEFRS)	T -	One session every two years
31.	ICSC, thirty-ninth session [General Assembly resolution 3357 (XXIX)]	28 February-16 March	Bangkok	15 E	I (EFRS)	T -	Two sessions per year
42.	UNCTAD - Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-third session [UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) and Trade and Development Board decision 156 (XVII)]	14-18 March	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS)	T -	Two sessions per year
44.	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders [Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/24]	7-11 March	San Jose	42 G	I (EFS)	T -	
47.	UNCTAD - Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency, third session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	7-11 March	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS)	T -	
74.	Commission on Transnational Corporations, twentieth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1913 (LVII)]	2-11 May	Geneva d/	48 G	I (ACEFRS)	T -	One session per year
79.	ECLAC, twenty-fifth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI) and decision 1985/188 and ECLAC resolution 465 (XX)]	20-27 April	Cartagena de Indias	42 G	I (EFS)	T -	One session every two years
86.	UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, second session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	25-29 April	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS)	T -	
124.	Committee on the Rights of the Child - Pre-sessional Working Group [General Assembly resolutions 44/25 and 47/112]	25-29 April	Geneva	5 E	I (ACEFRS)	T -	Two sessions per year

	Organ	Dates (1994)	Location	Member-ship	Servicing a/	Periodicity
125.	UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, second session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	14-18 November	Geneva	c/	I T - (ACEFRS)	
152.	UNCTAD - Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-fourth session [UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) and Trade and Development Board decision 156 (XVII)]	12-16 September	Geneva	c/	I T - (ACEFRS)	Two sessions per year
166.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, thirty-first session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1776 (LIV)]	Third quarter (1 week)	A capital in the region	20 G	I T - (AE)	One session per year
168.	UNCTAD - Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Tungsten, third session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	7-9 November	Geneva	c/	I T - (ACEFRS)	
169.	UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, second session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	18-22 July	Geneva	c/	I T - (ACEFRS)	
172.	UNCTAD - Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, thirteenth session [General Assembly resolution 35/63]	24-28 October	Geneva	c/	I T - (ACEFRS)	One session per year
186.	Committee on the Rights of the Child - Pre-sessional Working Group [General Assembly resolutions 44/25 and 47/112]	17-21 October	Geneva	5 E	I T - (ACEFRS)	Two sessions per year
203.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and Caribbean Region, seventh session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/34 and 1988/15]	Fourth quarter (1 week)	Santiago	42 G	I T - (EFS)	One session per year
220.	Security Council - Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 687 (1991)	As required	Geneva	15 G	I T SR (ACEFRS)	As required
242.	High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development [General Assembly resolution 47/191]	17-22 March	New York	15 E	I T - (ACEFRS)	

2. Additions to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 contained in section A of annex I

	Organ	Dates (1994)	Location	Member-ship	Servicing a/	Periodicity
(a)	UNCTAD - Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows, third session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	10-14 January	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS) T -	
(b)	UNCTAD - Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries, third session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	17-21 January	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS) T -	
(c)	UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Commodities [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	31 January-4 February	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS) T -	
(d)	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, thirtieth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1776 (LIV)]	January/February (1 Week)	Damascus	18 G	I (AE) T -	
(e)	Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and Caribbean Region, sixth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/34 and 1988/15]	May/June (1 week)	Santo Domingo	42 G	I (EFS) T -	
(f)	Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, second session [General Assembly resolution 47/92]	22 August-2 September	New York	191 G	I (ACEFRS) T -	
(g)	Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)]	8 September	New York	123 G	I (AEFRS) T SR	One session every two years
(h)	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Pre-sessional Working Group [Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/4]	12-16 December	Geneva	5 E	I (EFRS) T -	

	Organ	Dates (1994)	Location	Member-ship	Servicing a/			Periodicity
(i)	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
(j)	International Conference on Families [General Assembly resolution 47/237]	To be determined* (2 meetings)	New York	184 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	-	

* Two plenary meetings of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly will be designated as the International Conference on Families.

3. Changes to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995 contained in section C of annex I (changes have been underline)

	Organ	Dates (1995)	Location	Member-ship	Servicing a/			Periodicity
26.	Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child [General Assembly resolution 44/25]	February (1 day)	New York	146 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session every two years
31.	UNCTAD - Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-fifth session [UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) and Trade and Development Board decision 156 (XVII)]	13-17 March	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS)	T	-	
85.	UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, third session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	27 November-1 December	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS)	T	-	
112.	UNCTAD - Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-sixth session [UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) and Trade and Development Board decision 156 (XVII)]	28 August-1 September	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS)	T	-	
131.	UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, third session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183]	9-13 October	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS)	T	-	
133.	UNCTAD - Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, fourteenth session [General Assembly resolution 35/63]	6-10 March	Geneva	c/	I (ACEFRS)	T	-	One session per year
147.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, twelfth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/33 and 1985/17]	May (3 weeks)	Geneva	18 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session per year
149.	Sixth meeting of States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment [General Assembly resolution 39/46 A]	29 November	Geneva	76 G	I (EFRS)	T	SR	One session every two years
179.	Security Council - Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 687 (1991)	As required	Geneva	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required

4. Addition to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995 contained in section C of annex I

	Organ	Dates (1995)	Location	Member-ship	Servicing a/	Periodicity
(a)	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola	As required	New York	15 G	I T SR (ACEFRS)	As required

5. Deletion from the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995 contained in section C of annex I

	Organ	Dates (1995)	Location	Member-ship	Servicing a/	Periodicity
89.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Pre-sessional Working Group [Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/4]	26-30 June	Geneva	5 E	I (EFRS) T -	One session per year